

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A single part shear coupling, comprising:

a cylindrical body having a first end of a first diameter and a second end of a second diameter, the first diameter being larger than the second diameter,

[[with]] the first end having a cylindrical hollow part of the body at the first end having and an internally threaded cavity, the internal diameter of the cylindrical hollow part being greater than the internally threaded cavity; and

an externally threaded pin defining the second end of said body, the cylindrical hollow part of said body being weakened by a groove on the cylindrical hollow part of said body, the groove providing a stress concentration point where the coupling will part when exposed to a predetermined desired load.

2. (Currently amended) A single-part shear coupling, comprising:

a hollow cylindrical body having opposed ends and a bore extending between the opposed ends; and ~~with~~

an internal thread in both of the ends of said body, which is weakened by a groove positioned between said threaded ends at an unthreaded portion of the cylindrical hollow body providing a stress concentration point where the coupling will part[[.]] when exposed to a predetermined desired load.

3. (Previously presented) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where a surface of the groove is protected by a corrosion preventing coating.

4. (Previously presented) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where a surface of the cylindrical body of said coupling, opposite to the groove, is protected by a corrosion preventing coating.

5. (Previously presented) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where the stress concentration point is provided by locally reducing the outside diameter of the body of the coupling.

6. (Previously presented) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where the stress concentration point is provided by locally enlarging the inside diameter of the body of the said coupling.

7. (Previously presented) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where the stress concentration point is provided by locally reducing the outside diameter of the body of the said coupling and also locally enlarging the inside diameter of the body of the said coupling.

8. (Withdrawn) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where the stress concentration point is provided by a number of openings in the cylindrical body of the coupling, situated on the circumference of the body of the coupling in one or more rows, oriented perpendicularly to an axle of the coupling.

9. (Withdrawn) A shear coupling according to Claim 1 or 2, where the stress concentration point is provided by a number of cavities in the cylindrical body, situated on the circumference of the body of the coupling in one or more rows, oriented perpendicularly to an axle of the coupling.